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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-22 (canceled).

23 (currently amended). A method for producing a parison in a parison mold, wherein the parison has a neck, a base and an axially outer sealing edge of the neck, wherein the parison mold has a cavity and a separate neck mold, the neck mold having a through passage and a longitudinally-divided neck tool which forms the neck of the parison, and wherein the neck tool has a stop surface, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) introducing a gob of molten glass into said cavity of said parison mold;

(b) pressing a pressing plunger into said gob through the through passage until said pressing plunger reaches an end operating position defined by the stop surface, wherein said pressing plunger lies against said neck mold, whereby the parison is preliminarily pressed; to preliminarily press the parison; and

(c) simultaneously with or following step (b), exerting pressure on the base of the parison with a pressing element, which defines part of the cavity, by moving said pressing element towards said pressing plunger until the cavity is completely filled with said molten glass and the parison is finished-pressed, wherein the axially outer sealing edge of the neck is completely formed by the pressing plunger.

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24 (previously presented). A method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

following step (c), removing the parison mold from the parison, with the exception of the neck tool, and removing said pressing plunger from the parison; and

transferring the parison, held by the neck tool at the neck, to a finish-forming station.

25 (previously presented). A method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

contacting said gob with the pressing element within the cavity opposite to said pressing plunger upon the step of pressing said pressing plunger through said through passage and into said gob of molten glass; and

moving said pressing element in a direction out of said cavity, said moving being done by said gob acting on said pressing element.

26 (previously presented). A method according to claim 23, wherein said parison mold comprises longitudinally-divided parison mold halves having a loading orifice formed in a base of said parison mold halves, said method further comprising the steps of:

introducing said gob of molten glass into said cavity through said loading orifice; and

closing said loading orifice with said pressing element.

27 (previously presented). A method according to claim 25, wherein said parison mold comprises longitudinally-divided parison mold halves having a loading orifice formed in a base of said parison mold halves, said method further comprising the steps of:

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introducing said gob of molten glass into said cavity through said loading orifice; and

closing said loading orifice with said pressing element.

28 (previously presented). A method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

determining a maximum penetration depth of said pressing element into said cavity by sensing the movement of said pressing element relative to said parison mold; and

controlling the mass of said gob of molten glass introduced into said cavity by sensing the movement of said pressing element relative to said parison mold.

29 (previously presented). A method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

determining a maximum penetration depth of said pressing element into said cavity by sensing the movement of said pressing element relative to said parison mold; and

controlling the mass of said gob of molten glass introduced into said cavity by sensing the movement of said pressing element relative to said parison mold.

30 (previously presented). A method according to claim 26, wherein step (c) is performed by moving said pressing element through said loading orifice into said cavity, and said method further comprising the steps of:

determining the maximum penetration depth of said pressing element into said cavity by sensing the movement of said pressing element relative to said parison mold; and

controlling the mass of said gob of molten glass introduced into said cavity by sensing the movement of said pressing element relative to said parison mold.

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31 (currently amended). An apparatus for producing a parison from a gob of molten glass, wherein said parison has a neck, a base, and an axially outer sealing edge, said apparatus comprising:

a parison mold having a cavity, a loading orifice through which said molten gob is received into said cavity, and a separate neck mold having a longitudinally-divided neck tool for forming the neck of the parison, said neck mold having a through passage;

a pressing plunger movable through said through passage for pressing into said glass gob in said cavity, said pressing plunger being movable to an end operating position, against ~~the neck mold~~ wherein the pressing plunger lies against the neck tool, thereby preliminarily pressing said parison, said pressing plunger being configured to completely form said axially outer sealing edge; ~~said pressing plunger being removable from said parison after the parison has been formed~~, and

a pressing element movable relative to said parison mold and which defines a part of said cavity, said pressing element capable of exerting pressure on the base of said parison in said cavity until said cavity is completely filled with said molten glass and said parison is finished-pressed, including the formation of the axially outer sealing edge; and ~~said pressing plunger being removable from said parison after the parison has been finished-pressed.~~

32 (previously presented). An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said parison mold comprises longitudinally-divided parison mold halves, said loading orifice is formed in a base of said parison mold halves, and said pressing element

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is movable into said cavity through said loading orifice and is capable of closing said loading orifice.

33 (currently amended). An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said parison mold comprises a non-longitudinally-divided block mold comprising said loading orifice and which has a locking ring that lies adjacent to the neck tool, wherein said pressing element is displaceably mounted in a lower base orifice of said block mold, and said neck tool in the upwards direction is adjacent to said loading orifice of said block mold.

34 (previously presented). An apparatus according to claim 31 further comprising:

a shaft adjacent to a foot of the pressing plunger, said shaft having an annular end face and is wider than said pressing plunger, and

a forming ring for forming said complete axially outer sealing edge of the neck, said forming ring being formed in said annular end face.

35 (previously presented). An apparatus according to claim 32 further comprising:

a shaft adjacent to a foot of the pressing plunger, said shaft having an annular end face and is wider than said pressing plunger, and

a forming ring for forming said complete axially outer sealing edge of the neck, said forming ring being formed in said annular end face.

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36 (previously presented). An apparatus according to claim 33 further comprising:

a shaft adjacent to a foot of the pressing plunger, said shaft having an annular end face and is wider than said pressing plunger, and

a forming ring for forming said complete axially outer sealing edge of the neck, said forming ring being formed in said annular end face.

37 (previously presented). An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said neck tool includes a stop surface engageable with said end face of said shaft to define said end operating position of said pressing plunger.

38 (previously presented). An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said neck tool includes a stop surface engageable with said end face of said shaft to define said end operating position of said pressing plunger.

39 (previously presented). An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said neck tool includes a stop surface engageable with said end face of said shaft to define said end operating position of said pressing plunger.

40 (previously presented). An apparatus according to claim 31 further comprising a cylindrical shaft adjacent to a foot of the pressing plunger, and

a centering ring fixed relative to said parison mold, said cylindrical shaft being received on a last part of the path of the pressing plunger as far as its end operating position in said centering ring so as to be guided and centered in the radial direction through said centering ring.

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41 (previously presented). An apparatus according to
claim 33 further comprising a cylindrical shaft adjacent to a
foot of the pressing plunger, and
a centering ring fixed relative to said parison mold,
said cylindrical shaft being received on a last part of the
path of the pressing plunger as far as its end operating
position in said centering ring so as to be guided and
centered in the radial direction through said centering ring.

42 (previously presented). An apparatus according to
claim 34 further comprising a cylindrical shaft adjacent to a
foot of the pressing plunger, and
a centering ring fixed relative to said parison mold,
said cylindrical shaft being received on a last part of the
path of the pressing plunger as far as its end operating
position in said centering ring so as to be guided and
centered in the radial direction through said centering ring.

43 (previously presented). An apparatus according to
claim 37 further comprising a cylindrical shaft adjacent to a
foot of the pressing plunger, and
a centering ring fixed relative to said parison mold,
said cylindrical shaft being received on a last part of the
path of the pressing plunger as far as its end operating
position in said centering ring so as to be guided and
centered in the radial direction through said centering ring.

44 (previously presented). An apparatus according to
claim 40 wherein said centering ring is undivided
longitudinally and is held radially outwards in a holding
groove of the neck tool.

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45 (previously presented). An apparatus according to
claim 43 wherein said centering ring is undivided
longitudinally and is held radially outwards in a holding
groove of the neck tool.

Claim 46 (canceled).

Claim 47 (canceled).